

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): A method of heat pipe wick manufacture comprising the steps of  
positioning metal felt adjacent to a metal substrate,  
positioning a porous metal exoskeleton member adjacent to the metal felt  
5 whereby the metal felt is between the metal substrate and the porous metal  
exoskeleton member, and  
applying heat sufficient to cause the metal felt to adhere to both the porous metal  
exoskeleton member and the metal substrate.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim [[14]] 10 further comprising a step  
selected from the group consisting of  
applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate,  
applying brazing material between the metal felt and the porous metal  
5 exoskeleton member, and  
applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate as well as  
between the metal felt and the porous metal exoskeleton member  
prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim [[14]] 10 further comprising the step of  
grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of  
the metal substrate,  
the porous metal exoskeleton member, and  
5 both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~15~~ 11 further comprising the step of grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of

the metal substrate,

the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

5 both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~16~~ 12 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~17~~ 13 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat

Claim 16 (original): A method of heat pipe wick manufacture comprising the steps of

positioning wick material adjacent to a rigid substrate, and

positioning a rigid porous exoskeleton member adjacent to the wick material

whereby the wick material is between the rigid substrate and the rigid porous

5 exoskeleton member.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of bonding the wick material to both the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using an adhesive applied in a single step after the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member have been assembled.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using adhesive applied in more than one step in the course of assembly of the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.